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# Back to the Past Comprehension Workbook Answer Key

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## Chapter 1 – Plans For The Fall

CH1-1. Where will Kim and Tim go this fall?

They will go to Camp Diggin.

CH1-2. Who is Mr. Prill?

He runs Camp Diggin.

CH1-3. Why is Camp Diggin enrolling kids?

To branch out and bring in cash to get out the mess with the bank.

CH1-4. What do Mr. and Mrs. Kent ask the kids?

They ask the kids if they want to go to Camp Diggin.

## Chapter 2 – Stuck With Camp Diggin

CH 2-1. Why do the kids not want to go to Camp Diggin?

Their mom and dad will not be with them.

CH 2-2. Where will Bud be when the kids are at Camp Diggin?

Bud will be at Pup Inn.

CH 2-3. What do Kim's mom and dad tell her when she does not want to go?

They tell her that... she cannot quit like this/they got her bus ticket/she has to go/she just has to do the best she can do have fun.

CH 2-4. How does Tim feel about going to the camp?

He thinks that the camp might not be all that bad, it may be fun to dig out a fossil, but he still does not want to go.

## Chapter 3 – At Camp Diggin

CH3-1. How many kids are on the bus?

It is just Kim and Tim.

CH3-2. Describe how Camp Diggin looks.

There is a flat lot in front of a big log cabin. The cabin is a run-down ranch. In front of the cabin, there is a flag with a T-Rex print on it. Next to the log cabin, there are stalls with stacks of hay. To the left of the stalls, there is a hut. Past the hut, there are plots with pits.

CH3-3. What is the mascot for the camp?

The mascot is a T-Rex.

CH3-4. How many kids will be at camp?

Just Kim and Tim.

## **Chapter 4 – The Check In**

CH4-1. Describe Mr. Prill's hut.

The hut is big and rustic. It does not smell fresh. There is a desk, bench and a bed. The desk has contracts and it is a mess. A big, tall mock up of a T-Rex stands next to the desk. There are rocks, shells and skulls on a shelf on the wall.

CH4-2. What is in the box that says "Camp Stuff – For Kids"?

The box has red tops and flaps for the kids.

CH4-3. Why do Mr. Prill and the kids step out of the hut?

To check what the honk is. To check the car honking.

CH4-4. Who do you think has arrived?

Answers vary.

## **Chapter 5 – A Visit From The Bank**

CH5-1. What does Mr. Vess want?

He wants to collect the money Mr. Prill owes to the bank.

CH5-2. How many days has Mr. Prill left to pay the bank?

He still has six days.

CH5-3. What do you think happened to the ads Mr. Prill sent out?

Most likely, Mr. Vess threw them away. (Answers may vary.)

CH5-4. What happens if Mr. Prill cannot pay the bank on time?

The bank will evict Mr. Prill and get the land.

## **Chapter 6 – Mr. Prill’s Granddad**

CH6-1. Where is the pickax? Where is the bucket?

In the cabinet.

CH6-2. Tell us about the chest.

It has Mr. Prill’s granddad’s stuff in it. It has a red hat and a red top in it. (Mr. Prill calls the stuff trash.) It also has a black tin lockbox with lots of red rust spots.

CH6-3. What is Mr. Prill’s granddad’s story?

He got the ranch and then he found a fossil when he was digging to plant crops. He fired all his ranch hands. He quit planting and set up a camp to dig for fossils. But then he began telling odd things such as he went back to the past.

CH6-4. Why did everyone think he went nuts? Do you agree?

Because he began telling odd things such as he went back to the past.

## **Chapter 7 – The Fact Test**

CH7-1. What is a fossil?

It can be a rock or an imprint. The skin and the flesh rot in the mud or the sand and the rest is stuck in a rock which gets to be a fossil. (Answers may vary and can be more detailed if the reader knows about fossils.)

CH7-2. What can fossils tell us?

They can tell us how big it was, how fast it ran, what its skin was like. / They can tell us how it was on this planet a long time ago. (Answers may vary and can be more detailed if the reader knows about fossils.)

CH7-3. Which dinosaur is Mr. Prill's favorite?

T-Rex.

CH7-4. How did the dinosaurs get extinct?

A comet hit our planet. It flung up so much dust that the dust blocked out the sun and they got extinct.

## Chapter 8 – Prep For The Dig

CH8-1. What is in the backpack? List three or more things.

Brush, rags, flasks, sunblock, big red hats.

CH8-2. What are they used for?

Brush is to get rid of the dust and the sand. Rags are to rub off the mud. Flasks are for drinks. Sunblock is for sun protection. Hats are for sun protection.

CH8-3. Why must the kids drink lots of water?

It is hot outside.

CH8-4. Why doesn't Mr. Prill want the kids to rush while digging?

The fossils are delicate and he does not want the kids to crush them.

## Chapter 9 – The Plots

CH9-1. Describe how the digging plot looks.

It looks like a mud pond. It has red flags stuck onto pegs.

CH9-2. Do the kids like the digging plot? Why?

No. Because it is muddy and a big mess.

CH9-3. Why is there mud in the digging plot?

The well nearby has a crack and the water from the well leaked on to the lot.

CH9-4. Why does Kim say the camp will be a flop?

She is upset to mid in the muddy lot. / She does not think the kids coming to the camp will enjoy digging in the mud. (Answers may vary.)

## **Chapter 10 – The Chest With The Junk**

CH10-1. Where are the drinks?

They are not in the backpack. They left them by the desk back at **Mr. Prill's hut.**

CH10-2. Why do the kids go back to the hut?

To get the flasks with the drinks.

CH10-3. What does Tim look for in the chest?

He wants to check out the black box.

CH10-4. What do you think is special about this black box?

Answers may vary.

## **Chapter 11 – The Black Box**

CH11-1. Describe the black box.

There is a red pin that says 'back to the past' and a black pin that says 'back to the present'. On top of the pins, there is switch and a 3-inch blank display.

CH11-2. How does the black box start working?

The box slips from Kim's hand and drops flat on the pins. Then it starts working.

CH11-3. Why cannot Tim stop the black box?

He cannot find the on – off button.

CH11-4. What happens with the twisting wind?

It sucks up Kim, Tim and the black box.

## **Chapter 12 – Back To The Past**

CH12-1. Where do Tim and Kim end up? Describe how the surrounding looks?

They end up in a place with just land, hill and cliffs as if no man has been there before. It is hot.

CH12-2. How did they get there?

The twisting wind got them there. (Answers may include more details.)

CH12-3. Is the black box broken?

Yes. The pins do not work.

CH12-4. What does the display on the black box say?

It says, "Next blast off impending."

## **Chapter 13 – The Duckbill's Nest**

CH13-1. Why do you think Kim is so upset?

She is in the past and she does not know if she will go back to her mom and dad.

CH13-2. What does Kim fall into?

She falls into a nest. / She falls in to a duckbill nest.

CH13-3. Why cannot Kim get out?

Her leg is stuck.

CH13-4. What does the Duckbill ask the kids?

She asks, "Why are you in my nest? Did you crack my eggs?"

## **Chapter 14 – The Missing Egg**

CH14-1. Why does the Duckbill not want the kids in her nest?

She does not want them to crack her eggs.

CH14-2. What does the Duckbill do to keep her eggs warm?

She puts plants on the eggs.

CH14-3. How many eggs does the Duckbill Mom think she has in the nest?

Six.

CH14-4. Where is the last egg?

It is down the hill.

## **Chapter 15 – The Mad T-Rex**

CH15-1. What does the T-Rex do that scares Tim?

It jumps up and down. It runs from shrub to shrub. It swings a branch it has in its hand and bangs it on the rocks.

CH15-2. Why does Tim let Kim help him with the egg?

The egg is big and Tim cannot bring it back alone.

CH15-3. What does Tim step on and slip?

He steps on a plastic like thing. It is the Duckbill's shed skin.

CH15-4. How does the T-Rex get stuck?

It hits a branch with its neck. The branch splits and its neck gets stuck.

## **Chapter 16 – The Big Help**

CH16-1. Why cannot Tim pick up the egg?

It is too big.

CH16-2. What is wrong with the T-Rex?

A big twig is stuck in its gum.

CH16-3. Why does Tim get on a big rock?

So he is as tall as the T-Rex. / So he can reach the T-Rex's mouth.



CH16-4. Why does Tim fall down from the rock?

When he yanks the twig and the T-Rex yells in pain, Tim panics and falls down.

## **Chapter 17 – Man With The Black Box**

CH17-1. Who is the man that the T-Rex talks about?

He is Mr. Prill's granddad.

CH17-2. How do they bring the egg back to the nest?

T-Rex helps Kim and Tim./T-Rex picks up the egg and runs up the hill back to the nest.

CH17-3. What is wrong with the black box?

The switch is missing.

CH17-4. How does Tim fix the black box?

(When he finds the missing switch in the nest,) He sticks the switch back in its spot on the box.

## **Chapter 18 – A Trip On T-Rex's Back**

CH18-1. Why does Kim want to stay by the nest with the Duckbill?

The eggs are about to crack and she does not want to miss it.

CH18-2. What does the T-Rex suggest they do while they wait?

To take a quick trip to the best spot.

CH18-3. Where does the T-Rex bring the kids to? Describe.

He brings them to a big rock by a cliff.

CH18-4. How did they get there?

The kids were on T-Rex's back.

## **Chapter 19 – The Eggs Crack**

CH19-1. What do the small duckbills look like?

They are small and wet. They look like they just got back from a swim in the pond.

CH19-2. Do you think Tim and Kim want to stay with the T-Rex forever?

No, they want to go back to the present (even though they are having fun in the past.)

CH19-3. What do the kids do to help Mr. Prill?

They want to bring the fresh Duckbill eggshells.

CH19-4. How will the kids' gift help Mr. Prill?

These will sell for a lot of money and then Mr. Prill can pay the bank.

## **Chapter 20 – The Twisting Wind Is Back**

CH20-1. What do the kids ask the Duckbill?

They ask if they can bring back a bit of the eggshells and the shed skin with them.

CH20-2. What do the kids fill their pockets with?

With eggshells and shed skin.

CH20-3. Why is the T-Rex sad?

He learns that they will be extinct in the future.

CH20-4. Do you think the box will work and bring them back to the present?

Answers may vary.

## **Chapter 21 – Back To The Present**

CH21-1. What happens when Tim hits the black pin?

The box works./The box ticks./The wind picks up and spins into a twisting wind.

CH21-2. Where does the wind bring the kids to?

It brings them to the present./It brings them back to Camp Diggin.

CH21-3. What does Tim tell Mr. Prill about his granddad?

Tim tells him that his granddad **held the link to the past./... his granddad traveled back in time.** (Answers may vary.)

CH21-4. Why does Mr. Prill think Mr. and Mrs. Kent will be upset?

He thinks Mr. and Mrs. Kent will think their children lost their mind. (Answers may vary.)

## **Chapter 22 – A Gift For Mr. Prill**

CH22-1. What is Mr. Prill's response to the gift he gets from the kids?

He is very happy.

CH22-2. Do you think this will be enough to save Camp Diggin?

Yes.

CH22-3. What do you think the kids will do with the black box next?

Answers may vary.

CH22-4. Do you think the kids will want to come back to Camp Diggin next fall?

Answers may vary.